



## **A LITTLE PRINCESS** Ages 7 – Adults

Frances Hodgson Burnett's beloved children's novel comes to life in this delightful adaptation for stage. Sara Crewe, heiress to a large fortune, is enrolled at Miss Minchin's Select Seminary for Young Ladies in Victorian England. At first her life is happy – although pampered and spoiled, Sara is kind and considerate to the other pupils and soon makes friends. She even befriends the scullery maid Becky. Everyone likes Sara except Lavinia, a snooty and jealous rival pupil. When her birthday party is ruined with the news that her father has died and her fortune lost, the greedy Miss Minchin forces the little princess to become a maid. Living in an attic cell with the mice, Sara remains positive and graceful. When a mysterious gentleman from India takes the house next door, a strange and curious reversal of fortune is in store for Sara, making her truly a little princess! This exciting non-musical play runs just over one hour.

**AUDITIONS:** Choose one audition slot (7 maximum per slot):

**Saturday, January 6—11:00a-12:00p**

**Wednesday, January 10—5:30p-6:30p**

**Thursday, January 11—4:30p-5:30p**

**Saturday, January 13—11:30a-12:30p or 12:30p-1:30p**

**AUDITION FORMAT:** Auditioners will be interviewed by the director (parents are encouraged to attend), and perform audition sides.

**CASTING:** The director will choose one cast. 2018 Xclaim! Spring Performance Academy students get extra consideration, but casting is based on BEHAVIOR, LACK OF CONFLICTS, and ability to best perform audition material. Gender is not a factor in casting most roles. Race will not be a factor in any casting decisions.

**REHEARSAL PERIOD:** January 16 – March 7

Rehearsals will depend role (usually 3 days per week but could be more). Please see the audition form for possible rehearsal times on each day of the week.

**REHEARSAL CONFLICTS** affect casting. We will try to work conflicts, but you can only perform the roles for which you can rehearse. If cast, the director accepted conflicts on your audition form, but later conflicts will NOT be accepted and WILL result in re-casting your role. **NO conflicts allowed beginning 2 weeks before the show.**

**PERFORMANCES:** March 8-11\*, 2017

Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 7:00pm and Sunday at 3:00pm.

\*Alternate performances: March 15-18, for inclement weather

**BACKSTAGE & TECHNICAL POSITIONS:** We are accepting submissions for technical positions in stage management, costuming, make-up, lighting and sound techs. Interested parties should register for an audition slot.

**CONTACT INFO:** For more information, visit the website [www.xclaiminc.com](http://www.xclaiminc.com) or email: [info@xclaiminc.com](mailto:info@xclaiminc.com)

Company Manager: Jim Flowers – (270) 996-9238

Director: Christopher H. Cherry – (270) 777-5701

**EXPECTATIONS, FEES & EXPENSES:**

**All cast members must contribute the following to our production:**

\$10 Script Fee (*bring to read-thru*)

\$60 Activity Fee (*due at 1<sup>st</sup> rehearsal*). *Financial Aid available with completed application. 2018 Xclaim! Spring Performance Academy students receive \$5.00 discount per class in which they are enrolled.*

\$25 Minimum program ad sale requirement (*due 2 weeks before show*)

\$50 Minimum fundraising for production needs

Assistance with individual costumes

Personal undergarments/dressing, footwear and make-up

A minimum of 8 volunteer hours for production needs

**Strike will occur following the final performance on Sunday, March 11.**

**All cast members MUST stay to strike.** Cast party after until 7:00p.

## **CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS**

**ERMENGARDE ST. JOHN** – pupil, outspoken not very bright, age 10 or 11

**LOTTIE** – Another pupil, supportive, fun and friendly, age 10 or 11

**ALICE** – Another pupil, bright, honest, true to her friends, age 10 or 11

**JESSIE** – Another pupil, kind and accepting, fiercely loyal, age 10 or 11

**LAVINIA** – Another pupil, jealous, mischievous, used to getting her way, a proper young lady who is actually a bully, age 10 or 11

**MISS AMELIA** – sweet but gossipy teacher, Miss Minchin's sister, timid, fearful, follows orders without question

**MISS MINCHIN** – school owner and principal, mean, cold, unfriendly, selfish, concerned mostly about appearances

**BECKY** – servant girl, an orphan, uneducated, speaks with a Cockney accent

**MR. BARROW** – Attorney who manages the needs of Sara Crewe

**SARA CREWE** – a little princess, wealthy and well-cared for, intelligent, imaginative, kind and considerate

**MRS. CARMICHAEL** – neighbor of the school

**COOK** – school employee

**RAM DAAS** – Mr. Carrisford's Indian servant

**PERKINS** – housemaid to Mr. Carrisford

**MR. CARRISFORD** – another neighbor of the school

**MR. CARMICHAEL** – another attorney, works for Mr. Carrisford

**OTHER PUPILS** – girls, age 10 -12 who attend Miss Minchin's school



## AUDITION SIDES

Choose two contrasting characters – the director may request another.

**ERMENGARDE ST. JOHN:** I don't know why you're laughing at me. Miss Minchin told me to write it on the blackboard. She said I was to write it five times. She was annoyed with me when I bumped into her on the stairs and didn't say, "Excuse me, Miss Minchin."

**MISS MINCHIN:** (to BECKY the servant) Please tell me **you** didn't answer the door. You stupid girl. I should have thrown you out long ago. You're useless. (to her sister AMELIA) Imagine, Amelia, the door to my school opened by this dirty little wretch. What must Mr. Barrow thing? Oh, oh! Go to him, Amelia. (to BECKY) Get out of my sight. You horrid girl.

**MR. BARROW:** Sara's father, Captain Crewe, is a close friend of Lord and Lady Meredith. India, you know. Her mother died in India some years ago. Cholera. If you're worried about money, you needn't be. Captain Crewe has diamond mines. The mines are worth millions. One day the little princess will be an extremely wealthy young woman.

**JESSIE:** (to LAVINIA) You're so jealous of Princess Sara. It wouldn't hurt you to join in while everyone practices "Happy Birthday." I know what the trouble is. You used to be the princess here. Sara took away your crown and you'll never forgive her for it. Sara is special. I think she's nice. So do the other girls. The day boarders, especially the little ones, think she's quite wonderful.

**LAVINIA:** I am not jealous. Mind your own business, Jessie. Don't be silly. Just because Princess Sara has the prettiest rooms and such fine clothes, is no reason for everyone to treat her as if she were special. I don't think Sara's wonderful at all. She only pretends to be. I think she's shallow and pretentious. And if you ever call me jealous again, you'll be sorry!

**MRS. CARMICHAEL:** (to COOK) Getting a breath of fresh air, are we, Cook? I've just had a visit with your neighbor, Mr. Carrisford. My husband works for him. I know Miss Minchin is anxious to visit him, but I'm afraid that's out of the question. Mr. Carrisford rarely receives. His health is most delicate. At times he can be quite fragile. He suffered a complete breakdown when he was in India.

**COOK:** (to BECKY) Mind you, scrub down that sidewalk proper. You know how Miss Minchin likes a clean sidewalk. Where's Sara? She'll get no late breakfast. The porridge is all gone and I ain't about to cook up another pot. Put some elbow grease into that scrubbing, girl. . . . Harder. You and that Sara. Two of a kind. Bone lazy.

**RAM DASS:** My name is Ram Dass. My master's name is Mr. Carrisford. I have the attic room across from where you reside. We have a pet monkey I wish to tell you about. He belongs to my master who is ill. Sometimes the monkey amuses him and makes him feel better. It would be most sad for my master if the monkey were lost. The little one likes to explore. If he should jump across to your room, don't be alarmed. He's easy to catch and means no harm.

**BECKY:** I had a marvelous dream last night, miss. I dreamed I 'ad all the food I wanted. Ham and cheese and roast beef and chicken and sausage and hot soup! Chief Powhatan has restricted us to the area around the immediate settlement. The hunting is poor and the fishing is worse. I'm sure if he got to know us we'd become friends. There's only one thing to do. With or without permission, I will visit the village. Without help from the Algonquin, we won't survive.

**MR. CARRISFORD:** No, no. We've been searching for so long. Have you any new suggestion to make? There are plenty of schools in London. There is one next door. There is a child there who interests me, but she is not a pupil. A forlorn creature, as unlike poor Crewe as a child could be. Ram Dass tells me she has a lonely life. A little drudge.

**SARA CREWE:** The monkey came to my window last night. I took him in because it was so cold. I would have brought him back if it hadn't been so late. I knew you were ill, sir, and might not like to be disturbed. I don't know exactly what I am at Miss Minchin's school. At first I was a pupil and a boarder, but now I sleep in the attic. My papa died in India and lost all his money. There was nothing left for me or to pay Miss Minchin.

**MISS AMELIA:** Stop it, Sister. Sara has always been truthful. Perhaps if I weren't so timid and afraid of you, I could have helped her. Seen that she was better dressed and fed. She was worked too hard for a child of her age. All you were interested in was her money, and now you've lost her. Serves you right. I never thought I'd be able to say this, but you are a mean woman, sister. Hard and selfish!